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A NEW GENUS AND A NEW SPECIES BELONGING TO THE SUBFAMILY BLENNOCAMPINAE (HYMENOPTERA: TENTHREDINIDAE) FROM JAPAN

ICHIJI TOGASHI

1-chome, Honmachi, Tsurugi-machi, Ishikawa Prefecture 920-21, Japan.

Abstract.—**Nipponostethus imperialis,** n. gen., n. sp., from Japan are described and illustrated. The new genus is closely related to *Megatomostethus,* and characters are given to distinguish the two genera.

Key Words: *Nipponostethus,* Blennocampinae, Tenthredinidae, sawfly, Japan

Recently, I studied eight specimens of the subfamily Blennocampinae closely allied to the genera *Megatomostethus* Takeuchi and *Habachia* Takeuchi. They differ from these two genera by characters of the malar space, the prepectus, the claw, and the postorbital groove (Takeuchi 1952, Okutani 1972). Therefore, I believe they represent a new genus. In this paper, I describe and illustrate this new genus and species.

Nipponostethus Togashi, new genus

Body rather robust. Labrum rather small (Fig. 3); front margin of clypeus slightly emarginate (Fig. 3); malar space broad (Fig. 2); postorbital groove distinct (Fig. 2); postorbital carina present, developed below eye (Fig. 2); antenna filiform, 3rd segment longer than 4th and segments 3–8 more than 2× longer than broad (Fig. 4); prepectus present as raised shoulder, separated from mesepisternum by furrow (Fig. 5); forewing with 4 cubital cells, stub of analis straight (Fig. 6); hindwing with a middle cell and petiolate anal cell (Fig. 7); inner tibial spur of fore leg cleft at apex (Fig. 8); tarsal claw with inner tooth and basal lobe (Fig. 10).

Type species: *Nipponostethus imperialis,* new species. This new genus is very closely allied to the genus *Megatomostethus* Takeuchi, but it can be easily distinguished from the latter by the presence of the broad malar space (in *Megatomostethus,* the malar space is linear or sometimes absent) and the long slender antenna (in *Megatomostethus,* the antenna is stout with segments 3–8 not much longer than broad).

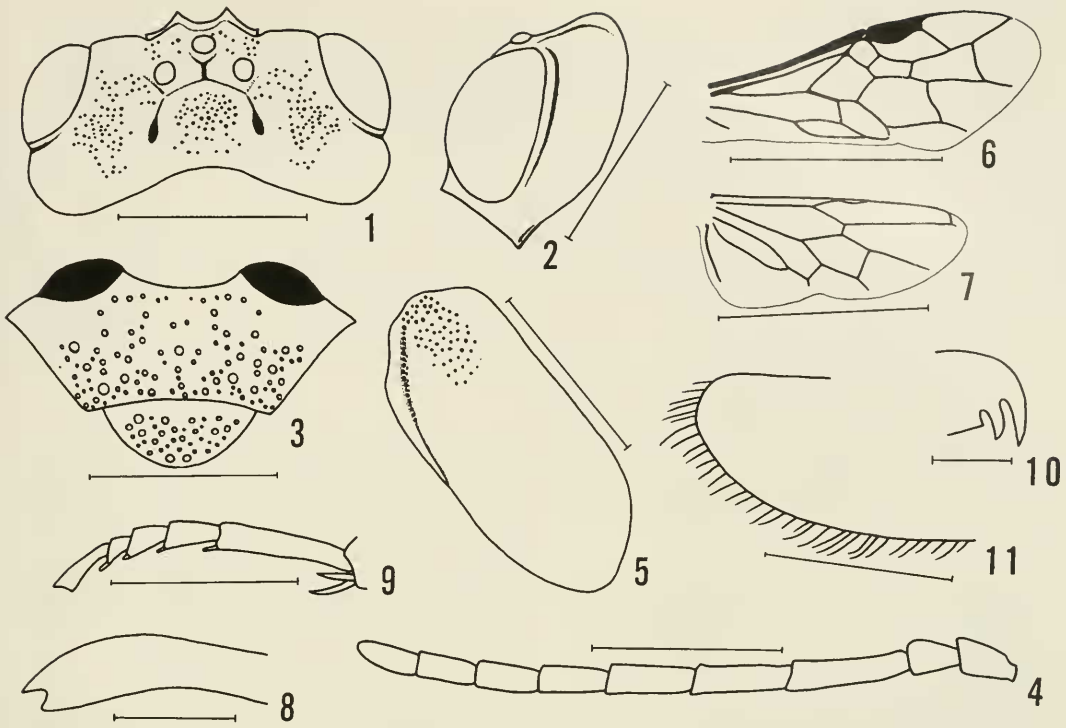
From *Habachia* Takeuchi, it is easily separable by the small labrum (in *Habachia,* the labrum is large and elongate); by the presence of the prepectus (in *Habachia,* the prepectus is absent); by the presence of the large inner tooth and basal lobe of the claws (in *Habachia,* the claw have a minute inner tooth and no basal lobe); and by the presence of the postorbital groove (in *Habachia,* the postorbital groove is absent).

Nipponostethus imperialis Togashi, new species

(Figs. 1–12)

Female.—Length 7–7.5 mm. Head and thorax black but apex of mandible reddish brown; antenna entirely black; wings slightly infuscate, stigma and veins black; legs entirely black. Abdomen reddish brown, with propodeum and sawsheath black.

Head: From above transverse (Fig. 1); OOL:POL:OCL = 1.2:1.0:1.6; postocellar area convex; interocellar and postocellar furrows distinct but rather shallow; lateral



Figs. 1–11. *Nipponostethus imperialis.* 1, Head, dorsal view. 2, Head, lateral view. 3, Clypeus and labrum, front view. 4, Antenna, lateral view. 5, Mesopleuron, lateral view. 6, Forewing. 7, Hindwing. 8, Inner foretibial spur, lateral view. 9, Hind tarsus, lateral view. 10, Tarsal claw. 11, Sawsheath, lateral view. Figs. 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, scale = 1.0 mm; Figs. 3, 11, scale = 0.5 mm; Figs. 6, 7, scale = 5.0 mm; Figs. 8, 10, scale = 0.1 mm.

furrows distinct and deep (Fig. 1); frontal area evenly concave, with a low surrounding wall; median fovea distinct, large, and rather circular in outline; lateral foveae distinct and elongate; supraclypeal area rather flattened; antenno-ocular distance slightly longer than distance between antennal sockets (ratio about 1.0:0.9). Clypeus convex; labrum nearly flattened; malar space broad, but nearly ½ as long as diameter of front ocellus (ratio about 1.0:2.0).

Antenna slightly shorter than costa of forewing (ratio about 1.0:1.1), relative lengths of segments about 1.3:1.0:2.3:1.8:1.7:1.4:1.2:1.1:1.2; pedicel longer than width (ratio between length and width about 1.0:0.7).

Thorax: Mesopraescutum prominently raised; mesoscutellum nearly flattened; cenchri large, distance between them as long as breadth of one. Wing venation as in Figs. 6 and 7. Hind basitarsus longer than following 3 segments combined (ratio about 1.0:0.8); inner fore tibial spur as in Fig. 8; claw as in Fig. 10.

Abdomen: Normal; sawsheath as in Fig. 11; lancet with 16 serrulae (Fig. 12).

Punctation: Head except for clypeus and labrum covered with fine setigerous punctures; clypeus and labrum largely and rather irregularly and closely punctured (Fig. 3); pronotum, mesonotum and scutellum covered with fine setigerous punctures; posterior margin of mesoscutellum closely and striately sculptured; lateral sides of posttergite distinctly punctured; front and upper portion of mesopleuron moderately and rather closely punctured; mesosternum nearly impunctate. Abdominal tergites shagreened.

Male.—Unknown.

Food plant.—Unknown.

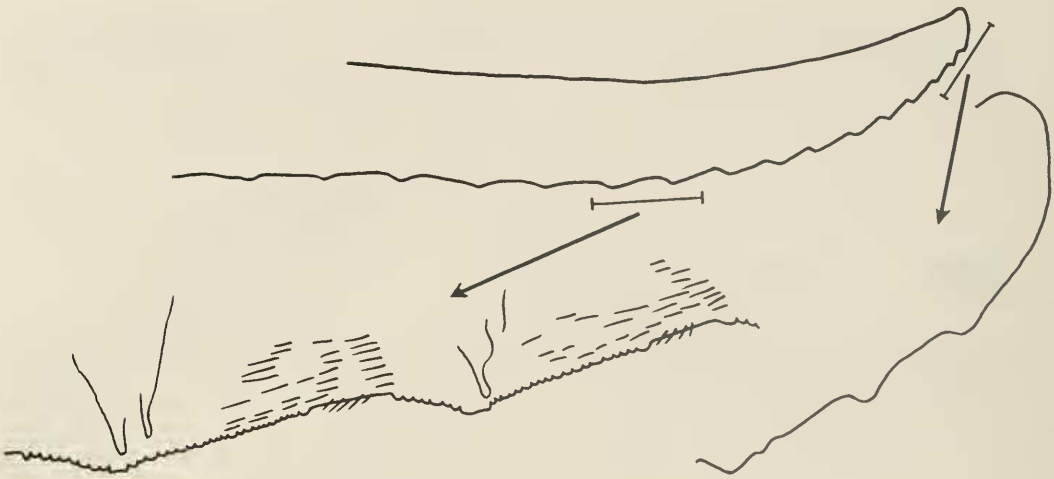


Fig. 12. *Nipponostethus imperialis*, lancet.

Habitat.—Japan (Honshu and Shikoku).

Holotype.—Female, 18. IV. 1996, Imperial Palace, Fukiage Gyoen, Tokyo Pref., A. Shinohara leg. Deposited in the collection of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.

Paratypes.—3 ♀, 12. V. 1973, Mt. Ioo, Ishikawa Pref., T. Mikage leg.; 1 ♀, 5. V. 1979, Mt. Kaji, Kochi Pref., T. Nishida leg.; 1 ♀, 24-26. VII. 1980, Minoto, Mts. Yatsugatake, Nagano Pref., A. Shinohara leg.; 1 ♀, 22. VII. 1989, Yarisawa (alt. 1600–1900 m), Kamikochi, Nagano Pref., A. Shinohara leg.; 1 ♀, 26. IV. 1992, Hikagezawa, Mt. Takao, Tokyo Pref., A. Shinihara leg. Two paratypes are deposited in the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., four paratypes are deposited in the collection of the National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo, and other one in my collection.

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